

Section B—Communicable Disease Surveillance

Hepatitis B, Acute

Background. Hepatitis B is a serious disease caused by a virus that attacks the liver.

Hepatitis B virus (HBV) can cause lifelong infection, cirrhosis of the liver, liver cancer, liver failure, and death. In 2001, an estimated 78,000 persons of all ages were infected with HBV in the United States. About 5,000 people die per year of sickness caused by HBV. However, a vaccine is available for all age groups to prevent HBV infection.

CDC > National Center for Infectious Diseases > Viral Hepatitis B. Health Topics A to Z.

Reporting. In Missouri, acute Hepatitis B has been a reportable disease for over ten years. Cases are reported to the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) through the Missouri Health Surveillance Information System (MOHSIS). Based on a combination of clinical and laboratory criteria, cases are assigned a status of confirmed, probable, suspect, etc. Only confirmed and probable cases are presented here.

Nationally, acute Hepatitis B is a reportable disease. Cases are reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) through the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS). NNDSS data for 2003 was not available at the time of analysis.

